



Summary of Recreational Groundfish Regulations for 2009

Cowcod Conservation Areas



Area 1 is located south of Pt. Conception. Area 2 is located west of San Diego.

See Section 27.50 for exact location coordinates

***In these areas, only the groundfish listed within this table may be caught or possessed
(see Exception at end of table)***

Note: Expected effective date March 1, 2009. Regulations in the table may change during the year. Before engaging in ocean sportfishing for groundfish and associated species, please review one of the sources listed in Footnote 3 to receive the most up-to-date regulations.

Species	Time Period ^{3, 4}	Depth Limit ^{3, 4}	Daily Bag Limit ^{3, 4}	Min. Size Limit ^{2, 3, 4, 5}
Nearshore rockfish ¹ ONLY , as defined in Section 1.91(a)(1)	<u>Boat-based Anglers⁴:</u> Open: Mar 1-Dec 31 Closed: Jan 1-Feb 29 <u>Divers, Shore-based Anglers⁴:</u> Open year-round	May only be taken or possessed in waters <i>less than</i> 120 ft (20 fm) deep ³ SEE EXCEPTION AT END OF TABLE	10 fish in combination per person; also included in the 10-fish aggregate RCG Complex bag limit	none
Canary, Yelloweye, Cowcod, Bronzespotted, and Bocaccio Rockfishes	CLOSED all year	CLOSED at all depths	NO RETENTION (zero)	
Shelf and Slope Rockfishes as defined in sections 1.91(a)(3) and 1.91(a)(4)	CLOSED all year	CLOSED at all depths	NO RETENTION (zero)	
Cabezon	Same as Nearshore Rockfish, above	Same as Nearshore Rockfish, above	2 fish per person; also included in the 10-fish aggregate RCG Complex bag limit	15" total length
Kelp or Rock Greenling	Same as Nearshore Rockfish, above	Same as Nearshore Rockfish, above	2 fish per person; also included in the 10-fish aggregate RCG Complex bag limit	12" total length
Ocean Whitefish	Same as Nearshore Rockfish, above	Same as Nearshore Rockfish, above	10 fish per person	none
California Sheephead	Same as Nearshore Rockfish, above	Same as Nearshore Rockfish, above	5 fish per person	12" total length
California Scorpionfish	All Anglers and Divers⁴: OPEN all year	Same as Nearshore Rockfish, above	5 fish per person	10" total length
Lingcod	All Anglers and Divers⁴: Open: Apr 1-Nov 30 Closed: Jan 1-Mar 31, Dec	Same as Nearshore Rockfish, above	2 fish per person	24" total length
Leopard Shark	CLOSED all year	CLOSED at all depths	NO RETENTION (zero)	

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Pacific Sanddabs and "Other Flatfish" ⁶ (see Section 28.48)	OPEN all year ⁶	None ⁶	See Section 28.48	See Section 28.48
Other Federal Groundfish (see Sections 28.49, 28.51, 28.52, 28.53, 28.57)	CLOSED all year	CLOSED at all depths	NO RETENTION (zero)	

1. "Nearshore rockfish" as described in Section 1.91(a)(1) means black rockfish, black-and-yellow rockfish, blue rockfish, brown rockfish, calico rockfish, China rockfish, copper rockfish, gopher rockfish, grass rockfish, kelp rockfish, olive rockfish, quillback rockfish, and treefish.

2. See regulations for information on gear restrictions and fillet lengths.

3. Subject to in-season change. Call the Recreational Groundfish Fishing Regulations Hotline at **(831) 649-2801**, visit the Marine Region Web site at **www.dfg.ca.gov/marine**, send an e-mail to **AskMarine@dfg.ca.gov**, or call your nearest DFG office for the latest information.

4. Divers and shore-based anglers are exempt from season and depth restrictions affecting nearshore rockfish, cabezon, greenlings, California scorpionfish, ocean whitefish, sanddabs and "other flatfish". However, when spearfishing during a boat-based closure, only spearfishing gear is allowed aboard any vessel or watercraft. Also, when angling from shore during a boat-based closure, no vessel or watercraft may be used to assist in taking or possessing species included in this table. The following definitions describe boat-based and shore-based anglers, and divers:

- Boat-based anglers are fishermen angling from boats or vessels of any size or any other type of floating object, including kayaks and float tubes.
- Shore-based anglers are fishermen angling from beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks, and other man-made structures connected to the shore.
- Divers are spear fishermen entering the water either from the shore or from a boat or other floating object.

5. Total length is the longest straight-line measurement from the tip of the head with the mouth closed to the end of the longest lobe of the tail. A finfish and shellfish measurement illustration is provided in the current Ocean Sport Fishing regulations booklet.

6. In closed areas or during closed periods, Pacific sanddab, butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole (defined as "Other Flatfish" in Section 1.91(a)(10)) may be taken.

EXCEPTION: During the open season, groundfish may be possessed in closed areas and in water depths closed to fishing only aboard vessels in transit with no fishing gear in the water. See sub-section 27.20(b).